

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 23304 101843Z

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 IOE-00 CU-02 ISO-00 HEW-02 OIC-02 SS-15 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2971

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23304

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: BELGIUM INITIATIVE UNESCO EXPD.

REF: STATE 214460; (B) BRUSSELS 8002

1. PERMREP DISCUSSED BELGIUM PROPOSAL WITH AMBASSADOR VAN USSEL. PLAN IS STILL TENTATIVE AND WILL AWAIT CONCURRENCE OF REST OF NINE, WHO ARE AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS. ALSO VAN USSEL WILL DISCUSS THE LEGAL PROBLEMS WITH UNESCO LEGAL ADVISER LUCIER.

2. AS NOW CONTEMPLATED, PLAN WOULD BE FOR RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING TO GENERAL CONFERENCE THAT MEMBERSHIP IN REGIONS BE DETERMINED BY VOTE OF MEMBER STATES OF THE REGION. LIKELY THAT PROCEDURE WOULD BE FOR REGIONAL VOTES AT GENERAL CONFERENCE.

PLENARY WOULD THEN ADOPT THE REPORS AND SO AVOID SEPARATE, REGIONAL OR COUNTRY VOTES. THIS PLAN IS STILL AT BEST TENTATIVE, BUT MAY FIND CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FROM MEMBERS OF EXBD AND FROM MEMBER STATES IN GENERAL. YUGOSLAVS ARE
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PAGE 02 PARIS 23304 101843Z

KNOWN TO HAVE PROPOSED THIS IDEA TO NON-ALIGNED GROUP

AND VAN USSEL INDICATED HE WOULD SEEK TO OBTAIN THEIR SUPPORT.

3. AS TO CONSULTATION WITH GOI, VAN USSEL SAID THEY HAD NO REPEAT NO PLANS TO CONSULT WITH GOI. THE INITIATIVE WOULD BE KEPT OUT OF THE CONTEXT OF THE ISRAELI PROBLEM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

4. COMMENT: PERMDEL FAVORS THE BELGIAN INITIATIVE. ALTHOUGH IT WILL NOT HAVE THE EFFECT OF DIRECTLY ATTACKING THE REGIONAL PROBLEM, IT CAN BE A VALUABLE STEP AND SHOULD BE RECONGIZED AS SUCH. IT WOULD CERTAINLY TAKE THE EMOTIONAL PITCH OF THE ARABS OUT OF THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL PROBLEM AND IT WOULD TAKE OTHER LDS'S OFF THE HOOK OF WHICH WAY TO VOTE, WHICH THEY WILL LIKELY WELCOME. THEREFORE IT IS THE JUDGMENT OF THE PERMDEL THAT SUCH AN INITIATIVE HAS A GOOD CHANCE OF PASSAGE, PARTICULARLY IF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL AND WYNTER GET BEHIND IT. AS FAR AS US POSTURE, PERMDEL RECOMMENDS THAT WE PLAY A LOW KEY ROLE IN THE BELGIAN INITIATIVE. VAN USSEL IMPLIED THAT THIS IS WHAT HE WOULD LIKE. IF THE NINE WILL TAKE THE LEAD IT WILL BE MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE. WE CAN MAKE A VERY POSITIVE STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE RESOLUTION DURING THE DEBATE, BUT WOULD RECOMMEND PERMITTING THE /WESTERN EUROPEANS TO CALL THE SHOTS. WE WILL BE IN CLOSE AND CONTINUOUS TOUCH WITH VAN USSEL AND OTHERS AND CANN REACT IN THE WAY MOST TO OUR ADVANTAGE WHEN THE TIME IS RIPE.
RUSH

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